

A6 18. [(Amended)] Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 1 [to 17,]
characterized by the piece of material being subjected to a dipping treatment in an
acid prior to anodic oxidation.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On Page 1, please delete the paragraph beginning "The quoted paper only
mentions rough and wide ..."

and insert

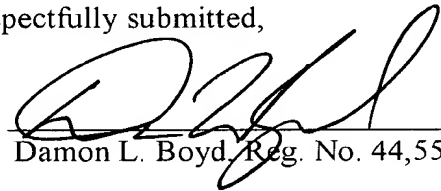
A7 -- The quoted paper only mentions rough and wide ranges of parameter for
the treatment process, not indicating any details, however, of homogeneity and
uniformity of the darkened surfaces. --

REMARKS

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (602) 382-6337 at
the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject
application. Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any deficiency in fees
be debited from deposit account no. 19-2814, **for which purpose a duplicate copy
of this sheet is attached. This statement does NOT authorize charge of the Issue
Fee.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 June 2001

By: 
Damon L. Boyd, Reg. No. 44,552

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2202
Phone: (602) 382-6337